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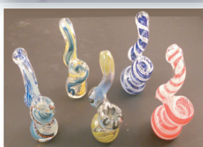
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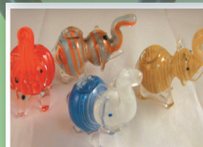
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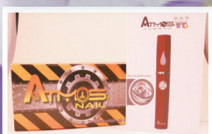


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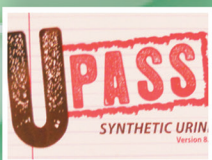
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### ON THE COVER

Rena Sarigianopoulos and Sven Sundgaard from KARE 11 are Dining Out for Life for The Aliveness Project on April 25, posing here at Pizza Lucé, the top contributor for 2012. Photo by Hubert Bonnet

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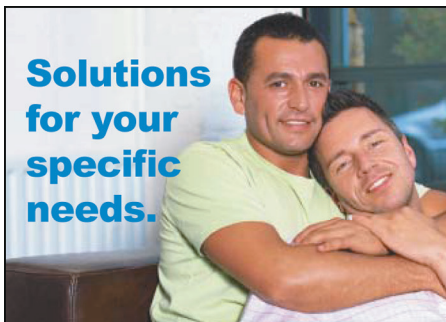
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THIS IS a time of high anticipation. So much has happened in the past two weeks, so much will happen in the next two weeks. By the time this issue is on stands, it'll be the day after Lobby Day at which the community will hopefully have shown a tremendous display of support for the Freedom to Marry at the Minnesota State Capitol. Perhaps we'll be moving toward the marriage bills being heard on the floors of the House and Senate. I hope things will be full of passion and optimism. Maybe even celebration. Hope.

I'm well aware of the fact that the discussion of the topic of civil unions in the community has not been met with open arms and support by some. In this issue, we're looking at both marriage and civil unions as they are relevant and pertinent to the bigger conversation. Marriage equality is the goal; but, stepping back a moment, what a historical event that was when four GOP lawmakers in Minnesota held a press conference to introduce civil unions for same-sex couples. When the only earlier GOP response to same-sex couples had included a parade of people arguing against the existence of homosexuality (as a concept, really), to see this happen was pretty monumental. Being that the civil unions press conference with the legislators also included each of them saying that they would not vote for marriage if the vote came up, it's not entirely helpful to the greater goal of equality, but it did serve a purpose in shifting the discussion away from nothing.

Away from nothing.

Sit with that a moment.

That night, across social media and websites and newscasts, the future of rights associated with relationships for this community seemed less of an "if" and more of a "how." I have to commend KARE 11 (the local NBC station) for quickly addressing the issue. Did you see the coverage? They delineated the difference between civil unions and marriage, and made it clear that civil unions were the lesser of the two—that the rights are not equal, that civil unions would likely not be acknowledged for federal rights should the federal DOMA be repealed, and other reasons. More than that, KARE 11 interviewed two couples from the community who gave faces to the fact that civil unions don't mean what marriage means. But, what was not mentioned was anything other than civil unions or marriage—it's as if there was no longer a third option: nothing.

The buzzkill of the day was that though plenty of DFLers came out saying that the concept of civil unions is lesser to the status of marriage for this community, there was still no promise to make marriage happen. Yes, I'll hand it to Speaker of the House Thissen for pre-empting the civil unions press conference by a matter of minutes to say that civil unions are outdated and not acceptable to those who, like him, support marriage equality. We still get the answer that there hasn't been a vote yet, and there may not be the numbers to pull off the freedom to marry in a DFL-controlled legislature.

This is when I wish that I had taken more political science courses. I stayed in the area of communications and women's and gender studies, but times like these make me feel like my knowledge of politics rely on "I'm Just a Bill" from *Schoolhouse Rock!* which actually predates me. Though, I suppose, my gender studies might have actually taught me more about what might happen in closed-door meetings between people in power, a little more knowledge of how lobbying works would probably help me feel more optimistic that marriage equality might pass in Minnesota in 2013. As it is, though, shouldn't we all be able to understand how our legislature

works by virtue of something as simple as understanding what the parties stand for?

I realize that nothing is ever really black and white...politics, especially, have shades of grey. We see that separate Boy Scout troops, Catholic parishes, and individual voters might step outside of the larger umbrella organizations of the Boy Scouts of America, the Archdiocese, and the Democratic (or whichever) Party. People have choices and can fully or partially adhere to the platforms of their particular groups. But, as far as we Americans understand it, how closely do representatives of a political party have to align themselves to their party?

The reason I ask this is fairly obvious. You know what's coming.

That's right. It's that brand-spanking-new plank in the Democratic Party Platform about marriage equality that was voted into the platform in 2012, which is under the heading "Greater Together" and the subheading "Protecting Rights and Freedoms":

**Freedom to Marry.** *We support the right of all families to have equal respect, responsibilities, and protections under the law. We support marriage equality and support the movement to secure equal treatment under law for same-sex couples. We also support the freedom of churches and religious entities to decide how to administer marriage as a religious sacrament without government interference.*

*We oppose discriminatory federal and state constitutional amendments and other attempts to deny equal protection of the laws to committed same-sex couples who seek the same respect and responsibilities as other married couples. We support the full repeal of the so-called Defense of Marriage Act and the passage of the Respect for Marriage Act.*

I don't want to sound snarky at this point. I ask in all seriousness, am I missing something here when I hear that outstate DFLers are resisting voting for marriage equality? When I asked Democrat Senator Baldwin about adhering to the party platform in my interview with her later in this issue, I understood her when she said that "party platforms and laws are very different things," that a platform is a vision statement for the party. So here we are. We are trying to turn a vision into a law and asking the representatives of that party to do it.

Even if the national party platform does not directly bind the state legislators, the DFL platform says under the heading "Civil, Human, and Constitutional Rights": "We Oppose: Discrimination against any person on the basis of race, creed, religion, immigration status, sex, sexual or affectional orientation, HIV status, gender identity or expression, marital or homemaker status, disability or age."

As members of the Democratic Party, DFL legislators are to strive to achieve the vision of the party, and that vision includes marriage equality. Not civil unions. Not nothing.

The DFL has the majority in Minnesota's House of Representatives. The DFL has the majority in Minnesota's Senate. The DFL Governor has said that he will sign a bill to legalize same-sex marriage should it reach his desk.

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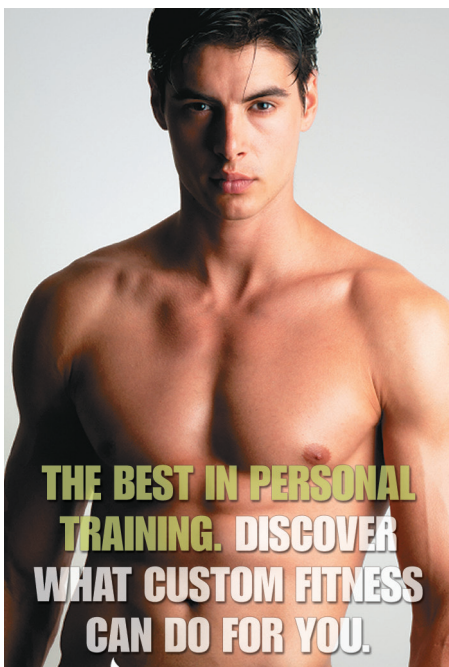
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## Playing Well with Others

I USUALLY finish a book before discussing it, but Gilles Herrada's *The Missing Myth: A New Version of Same-Sex Love* is an exception. His introduction offers insights into avoiding adversarial barriers to meaningful discussion, which I apply here to same-sex marriage.

While there will be no dialogue between perceived "abominations" and "benighted bigots," we hinder our own side with what Herrada calls "monological," thinking. He posits a person views any issue through his singular perspective and context as well as through the lens of the "collective subjective perspective," defined as the agreed perspective of the individual's community.

In short, everyone views the world—and a given issue in particular—from his or her personal upbringing, context in time and place, and the prevailing views of their community on that subject. These factors may cause people with the same ultimate goals to build walls when with effort on both sides they could open doors. Congruency of consensus requires making an effort to develop empathetic thinking, stresses Herrada, putting oneself in the other's place to the best of one's ability—which becomes increasingly difficult the further removed the other's position is from one's own.

In this column I use my *personal* opinions to raise questions and provide springboards for further thought and discussion among the GLBT community and allies. A hot topic today is same-sex marriage, to which I have devoted a number of "Edgewise" pieces.

Any opinions stated are my own, not the magazine's; my hope is to draw those that agree and those that differ to share opinions. While I am able to offer my views to others, I cannot change or refine my own position without the input of those who disagree and whose opinions would add to and enrich the discussion.

Beyond repealing DOMA and making marriage available to all consenting adults, I further believe that *all* weddings should be state-licensed civil unions, and that any religious ceremonies should be celebrated afterwards at the church/mosque/synagogue/etc., if the couple so chooses and if that religious institution agrees to perform the ceremony.

"Being a pluralistic thinker," states Herrada, "requires the willingness to slide into the first person perspective of someone regardless of our point of view. This is neither voodoo nor sainthood, it is intellectual rigor." ■

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MARCH 24, 2013



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Prepared and paid for by Diane Hofstede for City Council, 610 Ramsey St. NE, Mpls. MN 55413



## FIRST THURSDAY AT BURGER MOE'S APRIL 4, 2013



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1 Craig (left) of TCGPL presented a \$500 check to ARISE, a United Way program for LGBTQ youth homelessness, represented by Marty (center) and Lindy (right)

2 Tourney First Place Team: Town House 2—(from left) Joel, Troy, Brant, John

3 Tourney Second Place Team: 19 Bar 2—(from left) Roger, Mark, Greg, Brian

4 Tourney Third Place Team: Eagle 1—(from left) Craig, Todd, Jeff, Mike

5 Most Individual Points All Year: First—Troy (right); Second—Todd (left)

6 Most Improved Individual Player All Year: Julie





**"BEAR" WITH ME****(WHILE I TELL YOU ABOUT) ...**

by Barry Leavitt

**CAR WRAP**

Sunday, April 21 • Noon-4pm @ eagleBOLT-bar

Richard Herod III has done it again. First, he orchestrated the "VOTE NO" car wraps in support of defeating the marriage amendment. This time you can wrap your vehicle with "I SUPPORT THE FREEDOM TO MARRY." Your \$50 donation to MN United for All Families, gets your vehicle wrapped on both sides and a rear bumper or window decal. The Marriage Equality Street Team will even wrap your car for no extra charge. Supplies of the vehicle wraps are limited, so email your name, phone number and vehicle color ASAP to [wrapmycar@icloud.com](mailto:wrapmycar@icloud.com). If you're not able to attend, but want to get your vehicle wrapped, please email [kickboxer1977@aol.com](mailto:kickboxer1977@aol.com).

**2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL TEAM SPARKLE FUND-RAISER**

Sunday, April 21 • 3-7pm @ Town House

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**BROTHER OUTSIDER: THE LIFE OF BAYARD RUSTIN**

Monday, April 29, 6-9pm @ InFlux Space, Regis Center for Art

Bayard Rustin was a visionary strategist and activist who has been called "the unknown hero" of the civil rights movement. A disciple of Gandhi, a mentor to Martin Luther King Jr., and the architect of the 1963 March on Washington, Rustin dared to live as an openly gay man during the fiercely homophobic 1940s, 1950s and 1960s. This event is FREE and open to the public, and a FREE dinner will be served. 612-626-8086, <https://diversity.umn.edu/glbta/20thanniversary>

**"I HAVE PRIDE" PROJECT**

Through May 1

In honor of the continued support and inclusiveness for Minnesota LGBT rights, the theme for this year's Twin Cities Pride Festival is "I HAVE PRIDE." To submit a video, "Like" the Twin Cities Pride Facebook page. Then, submit a 30-second video explaining why you have Pride and how you embody Twin Cities Pride's six pillars: strength, enthusiasm, happiness, growth, confidence and power. For more information [www.facebook.com/tcpride](http://www.facebook.com/tcpride)

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Lorca, David Schlosser (green bag-left), Matt Rein (cream suit), Ricardo Vázquez (grey vest), Evelyn Digirolamo (brown jacket-right). Photo Nancy Wong

## Two Gay Literary Giants—Lorca & Wilde—Revealed On Local Stages

Federico Garcia Lorca (1898-1936) and Oscar Wilde (1854-1900) loom as two of gay literature's doomed giants. Both boldly defied their societies and both expressed their homosexual desires and gay sensibilities. Despite the public's knowledge of their sexual orientations, Lorca's plays and poetry and Wilde's plays were phenomenally popular decades and decades before Stonewall.

Three accomplished independent theater troupes now remember them. Teatro del Pueblo and Pangea World Theater are co-producing *Lorca in a Green Dress* by Pulitzer Prize-winner Nilo Cruz (*Anna in*

*the Tropics*) and Walking Shadow Theatre Company brings us *Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde* by Moises Kaufmann (*The Laramie Project*).

Ricardo Vazquez who plays Lorca became interested in his poetry a decade ago: "I was drawn to his overflowing images of nature, dreams, and death. In a single poem he could transport you from a cosmic journey to the moon to an intimate rhythm of loneliness in heartbreak. His poems seem to know no limits and his words, endless in their possibility. I was hooked."



Regarding the era when young Lorca was an enemy of the state, director Al Justiniano observes “the Spanish Civil War was the culmination of pent-up frustration over Spain’s painful defeat in the Spanish-American War and the political tug-of-war between the conservative Fascist and left-leaning Republican parties. At the onset of the war, Spain was very fragmented as each party struggled to gain control of the reins of power at all costs. Lorca left the safety of Madrid, a Republican bastion, to visit his family at Granada, a city he believed to be under Republican control. As he quickly learned, leadership in the city had changed hands and the Fascists called for Lorca’s execution, only two weeks after the war had begun. Franco believed that man’s morality was determined by a strict, extremist interpretation of Christian values, and therefore Lorca’s existence was not tolerable.”

Wilde was actually an Irishman whose satire and private life scandalized 1890s London. Like Lorca, he was also persecuted by ruling powers. The British Crown charged him with “gross indecency with male persons”. After Wilde’s imprisonment it would be 70 years until consensual adult homosexuality would be legalized in the UK.

*Gross Indecency* director Amy Rummenie points out that “Wilde couldn’t resist the opportunities to toss off a quip, or even to needle the opposing lawyer when he had the chance. But in addition to the wit and high stakes of the trials, there is a deeper argument of the nature of truth and of the role of the art in defining the artist. The playwright did us a great service by highlighting those ideas and refining them into a stellar courtroom drama.”

Craig Johnson has actually played Wilde in two other plays and has worked in five productions of his *The Importance of Being Earnest*, which is probably the second most popular stage comedy of all time after Shakespeare’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*. Johnson points out that Wilde was a revolutionary, not only in “his sexual identity, but in how he dressed, how he wore his hair, how he behaved, and his ideas about the power of art to transform society.”

Johnson adds “*Gross Indecency* is such a fascinating script because it’s a cut-and-paste of original sources and has the feel of a detective story as well as courtroom drama. Who’s right? Who has the truth? Can we ever really know what happened in the past? Can we ever really know what’s in another person’s heart? Oscar defines truth at one point as ‘something so personal that the same truth can never be appreciated by two minds.’ ”

#### **Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde**

Through May 4  
Minneapolis Theatre Garage, 711 Franklin Av., Mpls.  
(800) 838-3006  
[www.walkingshadowcompany.org](http://www.walkingshadowcompany.org)

#### **Lorca in a Green Dress**

Through Apr. 28  
Ritz Theater, 345-13th Av. NE, Mpls.  
(612) 436-1129  
[www.teatrodelpueblo.org](http://www.teatrodelpueblo.org)



(Top) Oscar Wilde (photo by Napoleon Sarony, 1882). (Below) Image of Craig Johnson as Oscar Wilde (with Grant Sorenson) - photo by Walking Shadow





*In the Time of Butterflies.* Photo by Rich Ryan

## THE CHILDREN'S HOUR

Through Apr. 28

Sabes JCC Theatre, 4330 S. Cedar Lake Rd., Mpls.  
(800) 838-3006

[www.brownpapertickets.com/event/342493](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/342493)

In 1935 Lillian Hellman courageously addressed the evils of lesbophobia in *The Children's Hour*. Jewish, straight, and extraordinarily perceptive about the subject, the greatest classic American female playwright wrote a masterpiece that still thunders 78 years later. Just look at how elected officials in rural counties of both major political parties chafe at pursuing GLBT rights.

At the Sabes Jewish Community Center Stephanie Cousins and Danielle Siver play Karen and Martha, two teachers targeted by vindictive gossip. The production's director, Anya Kremenetsky, shares "While the central theme of *The Children's Hour* is the destructiveness of lies and gossip, Hellman chose a very specific lie to base the story around. The play is a chilling glimpse into societal attitudes toward homosexuality in the 1930s, yet it still resonates in 2013. The accuser, Mrs. Tilford (Diana Wilde) says of the two women "What they are may possibly be their own business. It becomes a great deal more than that when children are concerned in it."

Siver elaborates "Martha and Karen are ruined by the spread of gossip specifically because the rumor involves homosexuality – the students at the school are immediately removed, it is implied, for their safety. Lesbianism is not only seen as a sexual deviance, but is implicitly linked with child abuse. And sadly, it doesn't end there. The public abhorrence pervades the private, internal lives of the women themselves. This is what is ultimately so heartbreaking to me – beyond the destruction of their livelihoods and places in the community there is a profound loss of innocence. Shame creeps in and overwhelms them both, tarnishing their friendship and forever stunting their capacity for happiness."



*Deathtrap.* Photo by Drew Trampe

## DEATHTRAP

Through May 19

Jungle Theater,  
2951 Lyndale Av. S., Mpls.  
(612) 822-7063

[www.jungltheater.com](http://www.jungltheater.com)

When *Deathtrap* hit Broadway in 1978 much was made that its two main characters were partners in writing, crime, and *love*. Therefore, Ira Levin's mystery thriller was a kind of ground-breaker, though its gay representations were not of the 'positive image' ilk that the era's activists liked to tout. By the way, positive images are not necessarily always honest. Bear in mind that that mentality would have foolishly

scrapped the great film, *Brokeback Mountain*. At any rate, the dextrous script penned by the *Rosemary's Baby* and *The Stepford Wives* novelist keeps you guessing about the murderous intentions of the couple. There's also a flamboyant clairvoyant named Helga played with loopy zest at the Jungle by Claudia Wilkens.

Steve Hendrickson and Michael Booth play partners Sidney and Cliff. Their expert timing accommodates the play's surprising twists and turns so if you like a good thriller you'll be well satisfied. However, the pair and director Bain Boehlke could have developed the romantic undercurrents between the men. They come off more as just work associates than lovers. Granted, Levin doesn't give much but it could and should have been explored. That said, it's a jolly good time! Note: *Deathtrap* ran a whopping 1,809 performances on Broadway.

## IN THE TIME OF BUTTERFLIES

Through Apr. 27

Mixed Blood Theatre,  
1501 S. 4th St., Mpls  
(612) 338-6131

[www.mixedblood.com](http://www.mixedblood.com)

Rafael Trujillo aka El Jefe (Boss, Chief) is among the gallery of ultra-right-wing dictators who ruled their respective Latin American countries with an iron and atrocious fist. His bloody, paranoid reign over the Dominican Republic in the mid-20th century, targeted and victimized thousands suspected of Marxist sympathies, real and imagined.

Mixed Blood Theatre has staged a poignant and passionate *In the Time of Butterflies* inspired by the true story of the four Mirabal sisters who met their fate at the hands of Trujillo's regime. Despite static stretches in Caridad Svich's playwrighting, director Jose Zayas's exquisite cast explores the tragic innocence of four young females who were actually varied in their political views, but ultimately helpless against fascistic zeal that made dissidents or anyone who appears to be dissident, disappear. Adapted from the book by Julia Alvarez.



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*My Brother the Devil*. Photo by Etienne Bol Paladin

## MY BROTHER THE DEVIL

Lagoon Cinema, 1320 Lagoon Av., Mpls  
(612) 823-3020  
[www.landmarktheatres.com](http://www.landmarktheatres.com)

When homoerotic desire is interwoven with homo-romantic love, it subverts engrained machismo. Moreover, a woman director/writer, Sally Hosaini, has created a penetrating examination of that in her stunning debut feature, *My Brother The Devil*.

GLBT people and allies who vacuously parrot that if only everyone would just 'come out' our problems would subside need to make a beeline to this film and wise up. And those who still wax wondrous about director Kathryn Bigelow after her overrated *Zero Dark Thirty* need to tap into Hosaini who actually *knows* the cultural landscape that Bigelow distorts.

Rashid (James Floyd) and his younger brother Mo (Fady Elsayed) are British-born, of Egyptian-Muslim heritage, and are puppets of gang members. When Rashid's personal evolution makes him aware of things beyond his East London 'hood', it discombobulates Mo. Moreover, Rashid's life tailspins as his weed client Sayyid (a compelling Said Taghmaoui) comes on to him. At that moment, the homoerotic/romantic wrench is thrown into the violent works of gangland machismo.

Floyd and Elsayed are both maddeningly lovable. Hosaini's ear for and perception of the milieu is intensely scrupulous. She's a woman who deeply, deeply understands the macho male psyche. Hosaini brings to mind female playwright Lillian Hellman who also possessed distinctive insight about masculinity.

In addition, Hosaini knows how to lay on just the right balance of gun-toting and violence. In this sense she brings to mind Spike Lee. *My Brother The Devil* has been legitimately compared to the terrific '80s cult classic *My Beautiful Laundrette* but it's its own phenomenon to be sure. It speaks to directly and viscerally to our present time. Though it's from the UK, remember that they too have been under the lion's paw of that elusive thing we Americans refer to as The War on Terror.

GLBT films at the MSP International Film Fest that you will want to consider. Director Melissa Koch will speak in person after a screening of her *The Infamous T*, which deals with homeless youth and bullying. Director Xavier Dolan's transgender romance, *Laurence Anyways*, hails from Canada. In *The Parade* gay activists in Belgrade form an unlikely association with a crime boss. *Born This Way* is a terrifying window into homophobia in Cameroon. *Bwakaw* features Filipino superstar Eddie Garcia as a man in his 70s finally coming out. These films are a great opportunity to get in touch with how queer issues are shaping up around the planet. ▣

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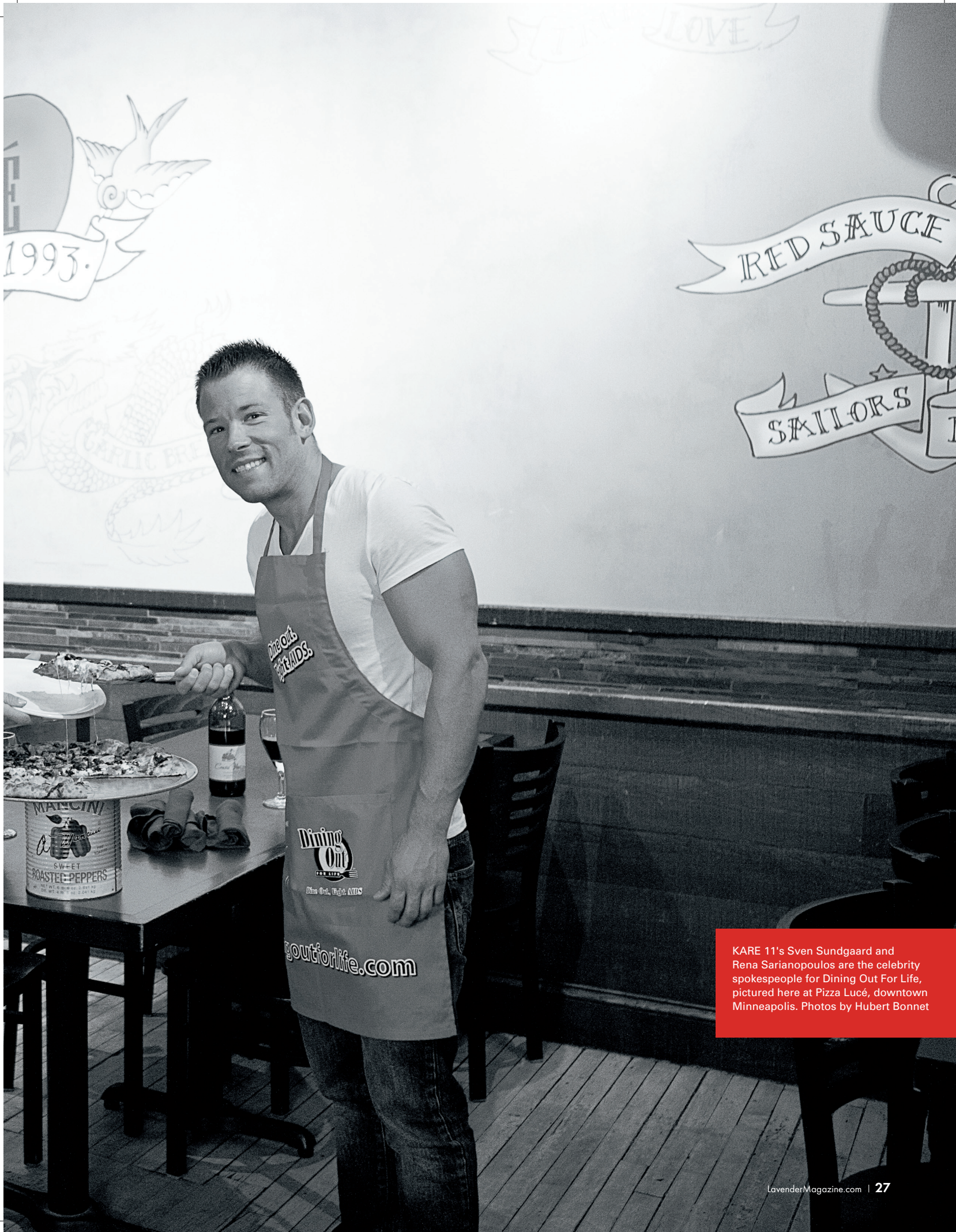
Remember those days when the promise of a sticker reward was all the bribery needed to get you on your very best behavior? Dining Out for Life is on the horizon and it's the best reason to eat at some of the best restaurants to help out those afflicted with HIV/AIDS. Morning, noon, and night chefs put out their very best, while the restaurants turn around and donate a portion of their profits to benefit the Aliveness Project. By eating out on this blessed day, you're helping neighbors *and* you get a sticker! What could be better? Here are a few fun spots to grab a bite to eat, broken down by neighborhood. (For a full list of participating restaurants and the percentage of proceeds they'll be donating, visit [www.diningoutforlife.com/minneapolis](http://www.diningoutforlife.com/minneapolis)



Continued on page 28 ➔







KARE 11's Sven Sundgaard and Rena Sarianopoulos are the celebrity spokespeople for Dining Out For Life, pictured here at Pizza Lucé, downtown Minneapolis. Photos by Hubert Bonnet





## DINING OUT FOR LIFE

### VARIOUS LOCATIONS

#### { PIZZA LUCÉ }

**Pizza Lucé.** It's easy to take Pizza Lucé for granted. We've grown accustomed to their plates. Fresh pizzas packed with fresh vegetables, hot hoagies, and crispy salads are now delivered all over the metro and even up in Duluth. (This, if you haven't been, their bar and band area is a great place to hang out while in the Twin Ports.) Lucé is contributing 35% of dine-in lunch and dinner service. It's a great reason to pop in and remember why this has long been one of the Twin Cities' favorite pizza pies. I suggest you start with a little Ruby Rae action. [www.pizzaluce.com](http://www.pizzaluce.com)

### DULUTH

#### { VA BENE }

**Va Bene.** While the tourists flock to Canal Park, locals in the know to go this little gem on the shores of Lake Superior. When the wind is right, their patio has some of the most beautiful views of this great lake. When the wind switches and those sub-zero temps roll off the frigid sapphire waves, the cozy indoor patio has plenty of glass windows for safe, warm gazing. The food is fresh Italian with some fantastic gelato. They will be contributing 35% of lunch and dinner sales. 734 East Superior Street [www.vabenecaffe.com](http://www.vabenecaffe.com)

### DULUTH

#### { SIR BENEDICT'S }

**Sir Benedict's:** This low-key sandwich shop used to be a gas station years ago. They keep their ties to the old ways by bringing in some of the area's considerable music talent for a little picking and strumming in the evenings. During the day fans line up for their made-to-order sandwiches. Service is order at the counter and they will bring your food to you. If they happen to have it, do not miss their beer cheese soup – or their beer selection for that matter – they have a fabulous selection. Donating 35% of lunch and dinner. 805 East Superior Street [www.sirbens.com](http://www.sirbens.com)

### NORTHEAST MINNEAPOLIS

#### { HAZEL'S NORTHEAST }

**Hazel's Northeast** has been a part of the Northeast neighborhood for over a year now, but it's hard to imagine a time before them. The breakfast food has fans trekking in from all over the cities for their drunken banana French toast and brisket hash. Lunch includes the Audubon, a serious sandwich filled with chicken, gooey cheese, bacon, and honey mustard on cranberry studded bread. Dinner is bistro fare with a little elegant goosing: lobster mac and cheese, Swedish meatballs or burgers. Donating 35% of breakfast, lunch and dinner. 2859 Johnson St. NE [www.hazelsnortheast.com](http://www.hazelsnortheast.com)



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## DINING OUT FOR LIFE

### SOUTHWEST MINNEAPOLIS

#### { PICCOLO }

**Piccolo.** There are chefs. There are chef-owned restaurants. Then there is Doug Flicker and Piccolo. Flicker's masterful craft creates flavors and dishes that will send your heart aflutter. He takes humble ingredients like pig trotters, pickled herring and stinging nettles and transforms them into elegant, fine-dining works of culinary art. It's all done on modest-sized plates inside a comfortable neighborhood bistro. Best recommendation for a dish? Get them all. This is the perfect place for a romantic night, or for a group who appreciates great food. Donating 35% of dinner. 4300 Bryant Ave. S. [www.piccolompls.com](http://www.piccolompls.com)

#### { WISE ACRE EATERY }

**Wise Acre Eatery.** Other restaurants can partner with local farms for their products, but

Wise Acre Eatery goes one step further. They own both the farm and the table. Ingredients they can't grow are largely sourced from those who follow their sustainable practices. It's a stunning spot if the weather is warm for enjoying the Tangletown Gardens view or tucking into cozy comfort dishes when the spring winds blow. It's a great spot for a weekday – their simple homemade cranberry granola in yogurt and fruit is a delicious wake-up treat. Donating 35% of breakfast, lunch and dinner. 5401 Nicollet Ave S. [www.wiseacre-eatery.com](http://www.wiseacre-eatery.com)

### WHITTIER

#### { NIGHTINGALE }

**Nightingale.** Step inside this chic spot and you would never guess that it used to be a little grocery market. It's all about the small plates and killer cocktails here. It's a perfect spot to grab a bunch of friends and load up the table with dishes for snacking and sharing. Make sure at

least one of those plates are the mammoth sized spicy, sweet wings. Their cocktails are superb sippers, especially their take on the Sauzerac with just the right amount of bitterness. Best of all, they're open late, for you night owls, serving dinner until 1 am. Donating 25% of dinner. 2551 Lyndale Ave. S. [www.nightin-galempls.com](http://www.nightin-galempls.com)

### UPTOWN

#### { CHINO LATINO }

**Chino Latino.** The pretty young things continue to flock to this Uptown hot spot. Cocktails garnished with plastic monkeys and Dendrobium orchids never go out of fashion. The plates still sizzle with worldly flavors. Right now they're also featuring Street Sheets, special chef-crafted menus from different hot zones around the world. Spring is Cuba, so they have ropa vieja, slow roasted flank steak, and Cuba Libres (rum and Coke with a lime). Donating 25% of dinner.

2916 Hennepin Ave. [www.chino-latino.com](http://www.chino-latino.com)

#### { UPTOWN CAFETERIA }

**Uptown Cafeteria and Support Group.** Hopefully, Thursday is warm enough for them to open up all those lovely windows onto Lake Street. This is always a fabulous spot for happy hour with the opportunity to watch the passersby just like the good ol' days of Figlio. This kind of food makes it hard to leave hungry. Graze through the fried goodness from their bourbon and black pepper wings to the crispy crab fritters. Donating 20% of dinner. 3001 Hennepin Ave (entrance at Lake Street and Girard) [www.uptowncafeateria.com](http://www.uptowncafeateria.com)

### DOWNTOWN MINNEAPOLIS

#### { MANNY'S STEAKHOUSE }

**Manny's Steakhouse.** This steakhouse is a perennial pick as the best in the cities for good



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# DO GOOD

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## THURSDAY APRIL 25

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### BLACK SHEEP PIZZA

**Black Sheep Pizza.** The coal fire imparts a unique flavor to the blistered, yeasty crust on this pie. Toppings are straightforward – no gimmicks here, just high quality, simple food. The meatball and ricotta with garlic is studded with tender, mild meat and creamy cheese on bright tomato sauce with a snappy little kick from the garlic. While there, don't forget to eat your greens! The Farmer's Market salad takes advantage of whatever ingredients are in season, lightly dressed and always packed with flavor. Donating 35% of dinner. 600 Washington Ave. N. (also at 512 Robert Street in downtown St. Paul) [www.blacksheeppizza.com](http://www.blacksheeppizza.com)

ST. PAUL

### JOAN'S IN THE PARK

**Joan's in the Park.** St. Paul's Highland Park neighborhood has fallen hard for this sweet little gem. We love their steaks and have signed up for the fan club for their delicious crab cakes. The warmly lit space is just what this part of town was missing. There are nooks and crannies for romantic dates, a bar for a little casual conversation and comfortable seating for in-depth, serious conversations. The service is as warm and as inviting as spending an evening in Chef Susan Dunlop and Joan Schmitt's home. Donating 20% of dinner. 631 Snelling Ave. S. [www.joansinthepark.com](http://www.joansinthepark.com)

### MUFFULETTA

**Muffuletta.** This neighborhood restaurant is always serving something seasonal and comforting. Whether sitting on their gorgeous patio sipping a little white wine or tucked into the cozy dining room, there is always a perfect seat to match your mood. The seasonal menu uses a lot of ingredients from local sources, like the Wild Acres duck served with fingerling potatoes cooked confit, paired with black kale and a mole sauce. They also have a couple of classic dishes that haven't changed

through the many years they've been open – like the crispy fried calamari or their beer cheese soup. Donating 20% of lunch and dinner. 2260 Como Ave. [www.muffuletta.com](http://www.muffuletta.com)

### SALUT BAR AMERICAIN

**Salut Bar Americain.** This brasserie is a casual neighborhood spot with a distinctive French American flare. Their fries that arrive with a side of ultra lush, herb flecked Béarnaise sauce are a must order on any visit. While the menu is packed with Parisian-style fare,

like the steak frites and mussels, many take a sharp left turn into fusion territory. The frogs legs are fried and tossed in Buffalo sauce – tastes like chicken! This is another St. Paul spot with a great patio, perfect for watching the foot traffic on Grand Avenue. The bar is a nice spot for happy hour – where you can fill up on food for only a couple of bucks and the dining room is mellow, romantically lit for quiet evenings for two. Donating 20% of lunch and dinner. 917 Grand Ave. (Also located at 50th and France in Edina.) [www.salutbaramericain.com](http://www.salutbaramericain.com) ■



DINING OUT FOR LIFE





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## MIDWEST FAMILY EQUALITY CONFERENCE



Photos by Sophia Hantzes

The GLBT community of Minnesota is fortunate enough to be supported by many non-profits that strive to improve our quality of life. These non-profits work tirelessly to protect our families, our rights, and our health. This spring, show your thanks and your support by attending one (or all!) of the special events that directly benefit the services that unite our community and allow us to move forward into a more healthy, happy, and prosperous future.

*Midwest Family Equality Conference  
April 19-20  
Spring House Ministry Center/Burroughs  
Community School, Minneapolis  
[www.familyequality.org](http://www.familyequality.org)*

The Family Equality Council will hold its 18th Midwest Family Equality Conference in Minneapolis on April 19 and 20. Full of educational and social events geared toward GLBT-headed families, the conference celebrates families of all kinds and allows families to connect and support each other. Kim Simes, Midwest Regional Manager of the Family Equality Council, says the conference allows GLBT families and the professionals that work with them "to learn more about topics that matter, to build on their own community of support, to share their stories to further open hearts and minds, and to raise their collective voices to create social justice."

With over three million GLBT parents and their six million children living in the United States, the Family Equality Council works tirelessly to support and serve all GLBT families across the country. Simes stresses the organization's commitment to "changing attitudes and policies to ensure all families are respected, loved, and celebrated." In the past year, the Family Equality Council has fought to protect the rights of GLBT families everywhere, including their fight against the anti-marriage amendment in Minnesota last year. The Family Equality Council also aided in the development of anti-discrimination ordinances in several Missouri cities, helped to defeat an anti-family and adoption care bill in Michigan aimed to discriminate against GLBT families, and rallied support for school administrators in Illinois who were terminated after instituting policies that supported and protected all families.

This year's conference will celebrate and inspire all families to take an active role in changing history. Panels and information sessions will allow adults to discuss current issues faced by GLBT families, and activities geared toward children are offered. U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin will serve as keynote speaker, and the conference will end with a Pride Parade and family concert.



## INCREDIBOWL 2013: A BENEFIT FOR AVENUES FOR HOMELESS YOUTH



Photo by Sophia Hantzes

THE PROGRAM "PROVIDES EMERGENCY SHELTER, SHORT-TERM HOUSING, AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR HOMELESS YOUTH AGES 16-20 IN A SAFE AND NURTURING ENVIRONMENT."

*Incredibowl 2013: A Benefit for Avenues for Homeless Youth*  
*Sunday, April 21*  
*The Park Tavern, St. Louis Park*  
[www.avenuesforyouth.org](http://www.avenuesforyouth.org)

There's one portion of our GLBT society that's often found in the shadows of other pressing issues: GLBT homeless youth. Many youth and young adults are forced out of disapproving households due to their sexuality, forcing them to live on the street and putting their emotional and physical well-being at risk. In order to provide safe living situations for these youth, Avenues for Homeless Youth will hold their annual INCREDIBOWL fundraiser at Park Tavern on April 21 to support youth in need.

Mike Meyer, Marketing and Development Manager for Avenues for Homeless Youth, says the program "provides emergency shelter, short-term housing, and supportive services for homeless youth ages 16-20 in a safe and nurturing environment. Avenues seeks to help youth achieve their personal goals and make a positive transition into young adulthood." In addition to providing these services, the organization has a unique, community-based program specifically targeted toward GLBT youth experiencing homelessness. For a year or more, volunteer hosts open their home to a young person, providing a bedroom and food, in order to create a safe environment where the person's sexuality is respected and celebrated. Meyer adds, "It is an intimate and transformative experience for participants and is a proven working model for almost 15 years. The GLBT Host Home Program serves as a national model for communities to what works in supporting young GLBT people experiencing homelessness."

INCREDIBOWL will benefit all individuals who utilize the services of Avenues for Homeless Youth. For \$40, participants get two games of bowling, a pizza buffet, and a chance to win one of several raffle prizes. Donors can also sponsor a youth for the event, allowing them to participate and enjoy the festivities. Reservations and questions can be sent to Mike Meyer at [mike@avenuesforyouth.com](mailto:mike@avenuesforyouth.com).



## DINING OUT FOR LIFE



Photos by Sophia Hantzes

SERVING ONE OUT OF EVERY  
FOUR MINNESOTANS WITH HIV/  
AIDS, THE ALIVENESS PROJECT  
PROVIDES MANY SERVICES  
INCLUDING DAILY MEAL  
PROGRAMS, A FOOD SHELF,  
THERAPEUTIC SERVICES, CASE  
MANAGEMENT, AND SUPPORT  
GROUPS.

*Dining Out for Life  
April 25  
Participating restaurants, Minnesota  
[www.diningoutforlife.com/minneapolis](http://www.diningoutforlife.com/minneapolis)*

One of the most anticipated fundraisers of the year is just around the corner—Dining Out for Life! On April 25, join over 180 restaurants for breakfast, lunch, and dinner to raise money for The Aliveness Project and Rural AIDS Action Network (RAAN). With restaurants in the Twin Cities, Duluth, Lanesboro, Mankato, and Saint Cloud, there shouldn't be any problem finding a participating restaurant to satisfy every craving. The organizations benefiting from Minnesota's Dining Out for Life strive to provide quality care for individuals living with HIV/AIDS. Serving one out of every four Minnesotans with HIV/AIDS, The Aliveness Project provides many services including daily meal programs, a food shelf, therapeutic services, case management, and support groups. RAAN reaches out to individuals in Greater Minnesota who are affected by HIV/AIDS by providing case management, support groups, HIV testing, medical transportation assistance, and health education. Restaurants participate for various reasons. For example, Market Bar-B-Que will be joining the cause this year by donating 25% of their dinner sales to Dining Out for Life. Owner Anthony Polski was inspired to participate in Dining Out for Life when he learned that one of his employees has greatly benefited from the services of The Aliveness Project. "He has worked for my family for 25 years, and he spoke so highly of the event...the most exciting part is thinking about all the people out there who will benefit the same way he has. The fact that the money goes to improve and save his life really means a lot to us." Market Bar-B-Que has been owned by Polski's family for 67 years, beginning as a late-night place where performers could get great barbecue. Polski notes that in addition to making award-winning barbecue, the restaurant has "always been about helping out the community." Be sure to swing by Market Bar-B-Que, or any other participating restaurant, to dine out and fight AIDS!



## PFUND 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



Photos by Sophia Hantzes



PFUND IS THE ONLY  
FOUNDATION THAT SUPPORTS  
THE GLBT COMMUNITIES IN THE  
UPPER MIDWEST.

*PFund 25th Anniversary Celebration  
April 27  
The Cowles Center for Dance and the Performing  
Arts, Minneapolis  
[www.PFundOnline.org/25thAnniversary.html](http://www.PFundOnline.org/25thAnniversary.html)*

In celebration of 25 years of service to the GLBT community in the upper Midwest, PFund will hold its 25th Anniversary Celebration on April 27 at The Cowles Center. According to Ryan Kroening (PFund's Events and Outreach Coordinator), the celebration's theme—"Generate"—will help "recognize and celebrate all that has been generated for the past 25 years—and all that PFund will continue to generate over the next 25 years."

PFund is the only foundation that supports the GLBT communities in the upper Midwest. Kroening states, "PFund works for a future where every GLBT person is safe and celebrated in their own communities by awarding grants and scholarships through a social justice framework, developing leaders, inspiring giving, and advocating for more responsive philanthropy. PFund works for long-lasting social change and is a vital resource across our five-state region." PFund also financially supports research and data collection regarding the needs of the GLBT community, including the needs of seniors and people of color. The 25th Anniversary Celebration will be full of entertainment, including a commissioned production written by Michael Elyanow of The Playwright Center. Erin Schwab will preside as Mistress of Ceremonies, and attendants are invited to a spectacular after party at Graves 601, complete with DJ MF and an interactive photo booth.



# Dine out. Do good.



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## PLATINUM-LEVEL RESTAURANTS



Can't dine out on April 25? Donate online at [aliveness.org](http://aliveness.org) or [raan.org](http://raan.org).



CITY PAGES, KARE 11 and LAVENDER invite you to

# DINING OUT FOR LIFE

## THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2013

Dine out at one of these participating restaurants on Thursday, April 25, and a portion of the proceeds will be donated to **The Aliveness Project** and **Rural AIDS Action Network**. Help support these agencies serving people living with HIV/AIDS. **It's the easiest good deed you'll do this year!**

**B** = Breakfast  
**L** = Lunch  
**D** = Dinner  
**Y** = Includes alcohol  
**★** = 50%+

### PLATINUM LEVEL (35%+)

ACQUA Restaurant and Bar **D**  
al Vento **D**  
Bambú **D Y**  
B.A.N.K. **L,D Y**  
Bar Abilene **D**  
Birchwood Cafe **D**  
Black Sheep Pizza - Mpls. **D Y**  
Black Sheep Pizza - St. Paul **D Y**  
Blackbird Cafe **B,L,D Y**  
Café Ena **L,D Y**  
Cafe SouthSide **B,L,D**  
Carmelo's Ristorante **L,D Y**  
Chin Dian **D**  
Cupcake - University Store **B,L,D Y**  
Cuppa Java  
Coffee and Deli **D Y ★**  
Di Noko's Pizzeria **D**  
eagleBOLTbar **D ★**  
Elsie's **B,L,D**  
FireLake Grill House & Cocktail Bar **B Y ★**  
Foxy Falafel **L,D**  
George and the Dragon **L,D Y**  
Grand Café **L,D Y**  
Great Waters  
Brewing Company **L,D**  
The Happy Gnome **L Y**  
Hazel's Northeast **B,L,D Y**  
The Herkimer Brew Pub **D Y**  
Highland Café & Bakery **D**  
Himalayan Restaurant **D**  
Hot Plate **B Y**  
J.D. Hoyt's **D**  
Khyber Pass Cafe **L,D Y**  
La Chaya Bistro **L,D Y**  
Loring Kitchen & Bar **L,D Y**  
The Lowbrow **L,D**  
The Lowry Cafe **D**

LUSH **B,L,D ★**  
Maverick's Wood Grill **L,D Y**  
moto-i Sake  
Brewery & Restaurant **D Y**  
Ngon Vietnamese Bistro **D**  
The Original Gabes  
By The Park **L,D**  
Pagoda **D**  
Piccolo **D**  
Pizza Lucé - Downtown Mpls.  
(DINE IN ONLY) **L,D Y**  
Pizza Lucé - Hopkins  
(DINE IN ONLY) **L,D Y**  
Pizza Lucé - Richfield  
(DINE IN ONLY) **L,D Y**  
Pizza Lucé -  
Seward/University  
(DINE-IN ONLY) **L,D Y**  
Pizza Lucé - St. Paul  
(DINE-IN ONLY) **L,D Y**  
Pizza Lucé - Uptown  
(DINE IN ONLY) **L,D Y**  
Pizza Nea **L,D Y**  
Republic at  
Calhoun Square **L,D**  
Republic at Seven Corners **L,D**  
Rustica Bakery **B,L,D**  
Saffron Restaurant & Lounge **D**  
The Saloon **D ★**  
Sawatdee St. Paul **D Y**  
Señor Wong  
Bar & Restaurant **D**  
Social House **D Y**  
Solera **D**  
Spill The Wine **L,D**  
St. Petersburg  
Restaurant & Vodka Bar **D**  
Tangletown's  
Wise Acre Eatery **B,L,D Y**  
Thanh Do Restaurant **L,D Y**  
Toast Wine Bar & Cafe **D ★**  
Victor's 1959 Café **B,L,D**  
Wilde Roast Cafe **B,L,D**  
Yum! Kitchen & Bakery  
(Take Out Only) **B,L,D Y**  
Zen Box Izakaya **L,D**

### GOLD LEVEL (25-34%)

Anodyne Coffeehouse **B,L,D**  
Brookside Bar & Grill **L,D**  
Bukhara Indian Bistro **L,D**  
Burger Jones -  
Burnsville **L,D Y**  
Burger Jones - Mpls. **L,D Y**  
Chino Latino **D Y**  
Curran's Restaurant **D Y**  
Ecopolitan **B,L,D Y**  
Eden Avenue Grill **D Y**  
Ernie's Pub & Grille **D**  
Erte & The Peacock Lounge **D**  
Falafel King **B,L,D**  
Fuji Ya Japanese **D Y**  
Gael's Gourmet **L**  
Gay 90's **D**  
The Glockenspiel **L,D**  
Good Earth - Edina **B,L,D Y**  
Good Earth -  
Roseville **B,L,D Y**  
HauteDish **D**  
Icehouse **D**  
Jakeeno's Pizza & Pasta **L,D**  
Kozlak's Royal Oak Restaurant  
Wedding & Events **L,D Y**  
La Grolla **D Y**  
Lyon's Pub **L,D**  
Manny's  
Steak House **B,L,D Y**  
Market Bar-B-Que **D Y**  
May Day Café **B,L**  
McCoy's Public House **L,D**  
Mozza Mia **L,D Y**  
Nightingale **D**  
Palumbo's Pizzeria **L,D Y**  
Pittsburgh Blue -  
Edina **L,D Y**  
Pittsburgh Blue-  
Maple Grove **L,D Y**  
Rainbow Chinese  
Restaurant & Bar **L,D Y**  
Salut Bar Américain -  
Edina **L,D Y**  
Sawatdee & Zushiya of  
Maple Grove **L,D**

Sawatdee Minneapolis **L,D**  
Signature Cafe **L,D Y**  
Tryg's American Restaurant **D**  
Union **L,D**

### SILVER LEVEL (20-24%)

The 5-8 Club **D**  
The 5-8 Grill and Bar **D**  
5-8 Tavern and Grill **D**  
Ah Sa Wan **L**  
Angelo's Italian Restaurant **L,D**  
Aster Cafe **L,D**  
Bagu Sushi & Thai **L,D**  
Barbette **B,L,D**  
Be'wiched Deli **D Y**  
Black Dog Coffee **B,L Y**  
Black Forest Inn **L,D**  
Boca Chica Restaurant **L,D Y**  
Brasa Rotisserie - Mpls. **L,D**  
Brasa Rotisserie - St. Paul **L,D**  
Bruegger's Prairie Village **B,L**  
Bryant Lake Bowl **L,D**  
The Bulldog Downtown **D**  
The Bulldog Lowertown **D**  
The Bulldog Uptown **L,D**  
Buona Sera  
Ristorante and Wine Bar **D**  
Buster's on 28th **L,D**  
The Butcher  
Block Restaurant **D**  
C.C. Club **B,L,D**  
Cafe Maude at Loring **D**  
Cafe Maude on Penn **L,D**  
Chiang Mai Thai **L,D Y**  
Citizen Cafe **D Y**  
Colossal Café - Mpls. **B,L**  
Colossal Café - St. Paul **B,L**  
Dunn Bros Coffee -  
Roseville **B,L**  
El Paraiso  
Mexican Restaurant **L,D Y**  
FACES Mears Park **L,D**  
First Course **D Y**  
Galactic Pizza **L,D Y**  
Gigi's Café **B,L,D**

Ginger Hop Restaurant **L,D Y**  
Hard Times Café **B,L,D**  
It's Greek to Me **D**  
Jerusalem Restaurant **L,D**  
Joan's in the Park **D**  
Kramarczuk  
Sausage Co. Inc. **B,L,D Y**  
Lucia's Restaurant **D**  
Luna Rossa **L,D Y**  
Manny's Tortas **L,D**  
Maynard's Restaurant **L Y**  
Muffuletta **L,D**  
nacho mamas **L,D**  
The New Uptown Diner **B**  
Nonna Rosa's  
Ristorante Italiano **L,D Y**  
Park Tavern  
Bowling & Entertainment  
Center **L,D Y**  
Pat's Tap **L,D**  
Q fanatic BBQ **D Y**  
Rail Station Bar & Grill **B,L,D**  
Red Stag Supperclub **L,D**  
Restaurant Alma **D**  
Rinata **D**  
Roat Osha **D Y**  
Salut Bar Américain -  
St. Paul **L,D**  
The Sample Room **L,D Y**  
Santorini **L,D**  
Sapor Café/Bar **L,D**  
Sen Yai Sen Lek **L,D Y**  
The Smack Shack **L,D**  
Sparks **D**  
Spoonriver **L,D Y**  
St. Louis Park  
Woodfire Grill **L,D Y**  
Stanley's NE Bar Room **B,L,D**  
Stella's Fish Café &  
Prestige Oyster Bar **L,D**

Tooties On Lowry **D Y**  
Tracy's Saloon & Eatery **D**  
Trattoria da Vinci **L,D**  
Trotter's Café **B,L,D**  
Tum Rup Thai **D**  
Uptown Cafeteria and  
Support Group **D**  
Vina Restaurant **D Y**  
W.A. Frost & Company **L Y**

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## BINGO A-GOGO: VEGAS BINGO!



Photos by Sophia Hantzes

SINCE OUR FIRST GAME IN 2002, BINGO A-GOGO HAS RAISED OVER \$700,000, ENSURING EFFORTS TO PROVIDE SUPPORTIVE DAY AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES TO THE HIV/AIDS COMMUNITY IN THE TWIN CITIES

*Bingo A-GoGo: Vegas Bingo!*  
*April 27*  
*Hyatt Regency Hotel, Minneapolis*  
*[www.bingoagogo.com](http://www.bingoagogo.com)*

It's time for Bingo, baby! Bingo A-GoGo is going glitz for this special Vegas edition of our community's favorite game on April 27 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. The celebrated Miss Richfield 1981 and her sidekicks will be calling the games and keeping everyone on their toes. Expect glamour. Expect sparkle. Expect anything!

Currently benefiting Park House and the Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus, Bingo A-GoGo began as a small event in a church basement with about 400 people. Now, event organizers plan for 800-1,000 people to show up to the Hyatt Regency for the event. "Since our first game in 2002, Bingo A-GoGo has raised over \$700,000, ensuring efforts to provide supportive day and mental health services to the HIV/AIDS community in the Twin Cities," says Shannon Regan, Bingo A-GoGo co-organizer.

Everyone is welcome to attend Vegas Bingo, and table hosts are encouraged to get their friends to attend. Regan adds that a special prize has been added to reward the table host with the most guests. But she won't tell what this huge prize is; "I can't divulge it...it's a secret. But it's a good one—a great one, even!" she adds.

Like always, players are encouraged to dress up in festive attire—anything goes in Vegas!—and participate in the costume contest. Food and drinks will be available, and there will be a raffle with huge prizes. What happens at Vegas Bingo stays at Vegas Bingo!



# 2013

NONPROFITS  
SPRING

by Kathleen Watson

## RAZOO.COM GIVE OUT DAY

HOME RULES & PRIZES MEDIA TOOLKIT NPO TOOLKIT FAQs BLOG

# GIVE OUT DAY

engage. support. give.

Photo Courtesy of Stonewall Democrats

274

332

11

82

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On **May 9th** we invite you to be part of and participate in the 1st national Give OUT Day.

Give OUT Day is a new national initiative that will engage hundreds of thousands of people on a single day across the country in support of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer community. It is a chance for LGBTQ groups large and small, to work across the country on issues and activities that matter to the LGBTQ community from policy change, families to the arts. It is a chance for members of the community and our many allies to stand up and show our support for change on one day. It is a chance to make history, we hope you'll join us.

RAZOO HAS EMPOWERED INDIVIDUALS, NONPROFITS, AND COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY TO RAISE OVER \$147 MILLION ONLINE, ONE SMALL DONATION AT A TIME.

Razoo.com Give OUT Day  
May 9  
[www.giveoutday.com](http://www.giveoutday.com)

If you want to give back to the community, but you don't want to leave your couch, be sure to participate in Razoo.com's Give OUT Day, the first national online GLBT fundraiser, on May 9. Hosted by Bolder Giving, Give OUT Day is the easiest way to support GLBT causes across the country. By simply searching for a specific zip code, donors can find GLBT organizations near them that will benefit from Give OUT Day.

Lesley Mansford, CEO of Razoo, says, "Razoo is the fastest growing crowd-funding platform for causes. Razoo has empowered individuals, nonprofits, and communities across the country to raise over \$147 million online, one small donation at a time." Mansford adds that Razoo has specific tools to make fundraising easy and fun for any organization regardless of its size.

Mansford states, "Give OUT Day is a new national initiative that will engage hundreds of organizations and mobilize thousands of people on a single day across the country to give in support of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer community. It is a chance for LGBTQ groups, large and small, to work across the wide range of issues and activities that matter to the LGBTQ community from sports to policy change, families to the arts. It is a chance for members of the LGBTQ community and its many allies to stand up and show its support for this community together on one day. It is a chance to make history."

Several Minnesota organizations are already planning to participate in Give OUT Day, including OutFront Minnesota, Project 515, One Voice Mixed Chorus, and Avenues for Homeless Youth. Organizations that receive the most donations from the greatest number of individual donors will have the opportunity to receive cash prizes. Any organization (large or small) is invited to join the event, and donors can start planning their donations now at [www.giveoutday.com](http://www.giveoutday.com).



# 2013

NON-PROFITS  
SPRING

by Kathleen Watson

## TRAINING TO SERVE BENEFIT

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community."  
ddition of BiReConUSA, Dr. Meg  
he conference as a keynote speaker.  
ier its newest play, *Queer*, and  
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eekend. The conference will also host  
baret Show and provide other social  
e to celebrate and support each other.



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## RAINBOW HEALTH INITIATIVE RELAUNCH



Photos by Sophia Hantzes

RAINBOW HEALTH INITIATIVE PROVIDES SUBSTANCE-FREE ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, INCLUDING THE FRUIT BOWL EVENT DURING PRIDE AND ENFORCING THE SMOKING BAN AT THE PRIDE FESTIVAL.

*Rainbow Health Initiative Relaunch*  
[www.rainbowhealth.org](http://www.rainbowhealth.org)

Rainbow Health Initiative has a new look! Officially launched on February 21, Rainbow Health Initiative has created a new website and resource directory to better serve the GLBT community. Created to alleviate the health inequities faced by the GLBT community due to internalized and externalized homophobia and transphobia, Rainbow Health Initiative works to improve the overall health of the GLBT community. Though the organization is known mostly for their strong stance against GLBT tobacco use, RHI provides many other health services to the community. Tiffany Paulson (Communications and Marketing Manager) believes the relaunch will help the community learn about other services RHI provides. Paulson states that an initial survey about RHI revealed that "there was a lot of confusion about us. People didn't know what we were about; they essentially thought we were just a smoking cessation program. We're so much more! We're a health policy and advocacy organization, and we promote health equity."

Three new initiatives will help Rainbow Health Initiative to assess and meet the health needs of our community—research, education, and advocacy. In addition to the new initiatives, Rainbow Health will focus on six areas of health: healthy eating, active living, tobacco cessation, recovery, youth pregnancy, and social support.

Rainbow Health Initiative provides substance-free activities throughout the year, including the Fruit Bowl event during PRIDE and enforcing the smoking ban at the PRIDE festival. The Proud Recovery Program assists GLBT people in recovery by providing recovery coaches. Also, Rainbow Health Initiative has created a new Provider Directory listing "culturally competent" health care providers, and has also taken an active stance in training providers on GLBT issues. This recent relaunch encourages the community to utilize the resources of Rainbow Health Initiative in order to improve the overall health of GLBT people across Minnesota.



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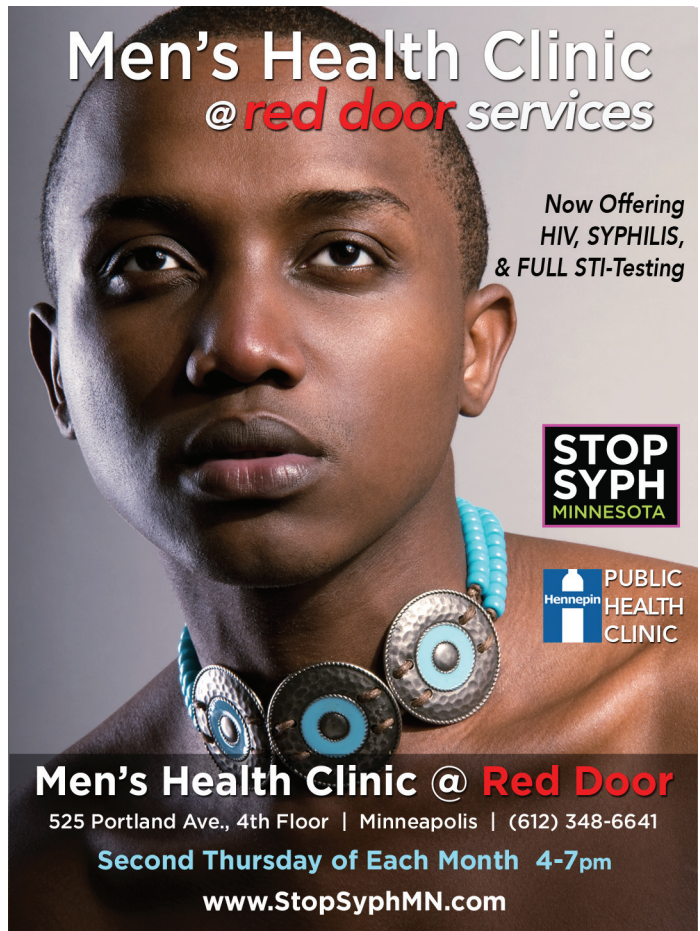
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# 2013

NON-PROFITS  
SPRING

by Andy Lien

## NON-PROFITS CALENDAR

There are many opportunities all year 'round to support organizations that are near and dear to our community and hearts. Here is a short list of upcoming happenings to make sure are on your radar from our online calendar at [www.LavenderMagazine.com/calendar-of-events](http://www.LavenderMagazine.com/calendar-of-events). Read up on what's going on and get your event listed for free!

**Event: The Journey Home Guided Tours**

**Organization: Clare Housing**  
**Multiple dates April - December**  
Join Clare Housing for a guided one-hour tour of their HIV-specific Housing programs. Learn how affordable housing and supportive services improves the quality of life for people living with HIV/AIDS in the Twin Cities.  
[www.clarehousing.org/get-involved/journey-home-tour/](http://www.clarehousing.org/get-involved/journey-home-tour/)

**Event: Earth Day in the City: Minneapolis Watershed Cleanup**  
**Organization: Friends of the Mississippi River**  
**April 20, 2013**

Friends of the Mississippi River is hosting a cleanup at two sites in the Mississippi River Gorge on Earth Day this year, bringing people from local river corridor neighborhoods and throughout the metro area together to contribute to the health and vitality of the Mississippi River watershed.  
[www.fmr.org](http://www.fmr.org)

**Event: Earth Dog!**  
**Organization: Ruff Love Dogs**  
**April 21, 2013**

Ruff Love Dogs is excited to present Earth Dog! A celebration of dogs, art, and sustainable communities, benefiting Save-A-Bull Rescue.  
[www.rufflovenortheast.com](http://www.rufflovenortheast.com)

**Event: 30th Anniversary Concert with Cantus**

**Organization: The Advocates for Human Rights**  
**April 25, 2013**  
Minnesota's remarkable culture of philanthropy and social justice gave rise three decades ago to The Advocates for Human Rights. To kickoff The Advocates' 30th anniversary, join fellow advocates for a Cantus concert.  
[www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org](http://www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org)

**Event: ARENA Bikini: NEON GLAM**

**Organization: ARENA Dances**  
**April 26, 2013**  
6th Annual Bikini: NEON GLAM, a sexy fundraiser, party, fashion show, and dance performance for Mathew Janczewski's ARENA Dances.  
[www.arena-dances.org](http://www.arena-dances.org)

**Event: dreamXchange**  
**Organization: The Ann Bancroft Foundation**  
**April 26, 2013**

The Ann Bancroft Foundation (ABF) will celebrate its 16th anniversary of creating a world where every woman and girl has a chance to live her wild dream and reach her full potential.  
[www.annbancroftfoundation.org](http://www.annbancroftfoundation.org)

**Event: 40th Anniversary Gala**  
**Organization: Intermedia Arts**  
**April 28, 2013**

Intermedia Arts celebrates 40 years as Minnesota's premiere multidisciplinary, multicultural arts organization. Special meal prepared by Chef Matt Bickford and live music performance by Ill Chemistry (Desdmona and Carnage) and Chastity Brown.  
[www.intermediaarts.org](http://www.intermediaarts.org)

**Event: GLBT Host Home Program Fundraiser**

**Organization: Avenues for Homeless Youth**  
**May 2, 2013**  
Join hosts John Larsen and Mike Stewart at their new home to support the GLBT Host Home Program of Avenues for Homeless Youth. This community-based program pairs volunteer hosts with gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender youth who are experiencing homelessness.  
[www.avenuesforyouth.org](http://www.avenuesforyouth.org)

**Event: Walk for Animals**  
**Organization: Animal Humane Society**  
**May 4, 2013**

You know how special it is to look down and see your pet staring back at you. A simple walk becomes something more when you share it with your furry friend. Now is the time to step up (and out!) for the animals less fortunate than your own--the cats, dogs, birds and critters that Animal Humane Society cares for each year--at the annual Walk for Animals.  
[www.animalhumanesociety.org](http://www.animalhumanesociety.org)

**Event: 2013 East Side Wine Tasting**  
**Organization: East Side Neighborhood Services**  
**May 9, 2013**

Mark your calendars for an evening of wine, food, and entertainment at the 2013 East Side Wine Tasting. Tickets and proceeds benefit the programs of East Side Neighborhood Services in Minneapolis.  
[www.esns.org](http://www.esns.org)

**Event: Divas and Desserts Concerts**

**Organization: Twin Cities Women's Choir**  
**May 10 & 11, 2013**  
Music, desserts and silent auction presented by the Twin Cities Women's Choir. Please join us for an evening filled with the wonders of possibility to see the world, to connect with community, to discover yourself!  
[www.twincitieswomenschoir.org](http://www.twincitieswomenschoir.org)

**Event: Moveable Feast**  
**Organization: Open Arms of Minnesota**  
**May 16, 2013**

The 9th Annual Moveable Feast is when you can help Open Arms accomplish the goal to raise over \$300,000 in just one night. That

equals ingredients for 250,000 free, nutritious and delicious meals, over half the meals cooked and delivered to people living with life-threatening illness in the community during 2013.  
[www.openarmsmoveablefeast.org](http://www.openarmsmoveablefeast.org)

**Event: 41st Annual Twin Cities Pride Festival**

**Organization: Twin Cities Pride Festival**  
**June 29th & 30th, 2013**  
Concerts, picnics, vendors, parading, eating, enjoying--all part of the Upper Midwest's largest Pride festival. Though designated a weekend on the calendar, the whole Pride celebration extends throughout the month of June, so check the website for all events.  
[www.tcpride.org](http://www.tcpride.org)

**Event: 11th Annual Red Ribbon Ride**

**Organization: Red Ribbon Ride**  
**July 18-21, 2013**  
11th Anniversary Red Ribbon Ride means 4 days, nearly 300 miles, hundreds of riders and volunteers, and many dollars raised to support eight Minnesota AIDS services organizations.  
[www.redribbonride.org](http://www.redribbonride.org)

**Event: 17th Annual River Cruise Party for Hope House**

**Organization: Hope House**  
**August 5, 2013**  
Hope House provides assisted care for people living with HIV/AIDS who are no longer able to live independently. Each year, one of our biggest fundraisers and wildest party is the Annual Hope House Cruise, the "Caribbean on the St. Croix."  
[www.hopehousescv.org](http://www.hopehousescv.org) □



BIGGAYNEWS.COM: YOUR GLBT WORLD NEWS!

**CALIFORNIA****A Gay Leader Emerges In The 'Hood**

The *LA Weekly Times* reports that Deshawn Cole came out at Watts' Imperial Courts project, blazing an inner-city trail. Cole is working hard at making the most of being a young, black gay man in the tough projects, where homosexuality is often seen as a waste of manhood. While he isn't the first to come out as gay in the gang-riddled neighborhood, he is certainly the first one to be out and proud, according to his mother. Now, working as a recreational aide at the Imperial Courts Recreation Center, Cole is becoming a respected community figure whose principles, energy,, and kind-heartedness have helped to change the attitudes of many residents of the Watts neighborhood towards GLBT people.

**ARIZONA****Arizona Town OKs Gay Unions Despite State Threats**

The *Washington Times* reports that state law may not allow for same-sex marriages, but city council members in Bisbee, Arizona, couldn't care less. The small town voted 5 to 2 to pass the measure legalizing same-sex civil unions, even in light of warnings from Attorney General Tom Horn, who threatened legal action if it passed. Arizona state law bans same-sex marriage, but there are a number of loopholes regarding local governments' ordinances that are both unclear and untested.

**JERSEY****Gay Slurs By Coach Renew Issue Of Bullying At Rutgers**

NorthJersey.com reports that just as Rutgers University began to emerge from the homophobic cyberbullying of Tyler Clementi, the school finds itself embroiled in another controversy — this time centered on bullying and anti-gay slurs hurled at basketball players by their coach. While the school has since fired coach Mike Rice, it still begs the question of how safe and accepting the atmosphere on campus is toward GLBT students. Troy Stevenson, executive director of Garden State Equality, stated: "Homophobia, harassment, intimidation, and bullying should not be tolerated in our society. We address this issue in our classrooms and it's high time we address this in our locker rooms."

**CALIFORNIA****Magic Johnson's Openly Gay Son Grateful For Dad's Support**

ABC News reports that Magic Johnson's support for his openly gay son is being applauded. Earvin "EJ" Johnson III, one of the former L.A. Lakers star's three children with wife Cookie, was photographed hand-in-hand with his boyfriend on Tuesday. The basketball legend responded to the photo by stating that he and his wife "love E.J. and support him in every way. We're very proud of him." Johnson has been a longtime supporter of the GLBT community since revealing that he was HIV-positive in 1991.

**1-USA****What Classic Sitcoms Taught Us About Gay Rights**

The *Daily Beast* reports that before Hillary Clinton, Rob Portman and President Obama were championing gay marriage, Sophia Petrillo, Julia Sugarbaker, and Mrs. Garrett were equal-rights crusaders. Long before the likes of "Will and Grace" and "Glee", many classic network comedies were showing audiences that being gay was nothing to be ashamed of and that the old adage of "love thy neighbor" meant accepting them for themselves and not for who they chose to love.

**2-CHINA****Taboos Push China's Gay Men To Wed Women**

*Aljazeera* reports that activists fight for GLBT rights as pressure to produce offspring pushes country's gay males to marry unsuspecting women. While the situation is not a new one, nor is it limited to China, some researchers believe that China's strict one-child policy puts a great deal of pressure on gay men to marry and produce a child to appease their parents. Homosexuality is still considered taboo in many of China's less developed provinces, which can also result in gay men marrying unsuspecting women in order to hide their sexuality and gain acceptance within a fairly rigid society.

**3-CANADA****Gay Owners To Close Restaurant, Sick Of Insults**

The *Winnipeg Free Press* reports that a new rural Manitoba restaurant is suddenly closing its doors following a series of homophobic verbal attacks against the two gay owners. Pots N Hands, which served home-cooked, made-from-scratch lunches and dinners, had been open since last December, but due to verbal harassment and intimidation from some members of the Morris community, the owners—who asked that their names not be published for fear of retribution—have since decided to leave the community entirely. One of the restaurant's co-owners stated: "It got to the point of being out of control by this certain group of people. This has been a very difficult decision. I cannot tell you how this has affected us on so many levels."

**4-FRANCE****Gay Couple Badly Beaten In Paris**

*Gay Star News* reports that, as the Senate discusses same-sex marriage and adoption, it is believed there are more attacks happening against gay people in France. Wilfred de Bruijn and his partner Olivier, who were walking arm in arm, were attacked and badly beaten by several men in the 19<sup>th</sup> district of Paris on April 6<sup>th</sup>, and describe their experience as experiencing "the face of homophobia". Photos that they posted of their injuries have gone viral, and have resulted in many liberal blogs and websites claiming that the recent protests against the "Marriage for All" bill have led to this, and other, attacks on GLBT people in the French capitol. □





**Senator Baldwin on the U.S. Senate:** We just returned from our spring recess and we're back in session. I had a chance to see some of my colleagues who, over the last two weeks, announced their support for marriage equality. We had little discussions and some of them were saying that this was "one of my proudest days in public service, to be able to make that announcement."



## An Interview with Tammy Baldwin: 'Our Families Are Just Like Theirs and We Are Just Like Them'

Someday, there will come a time when we no longer have to call out when someone is the “First Woman” or “First Lesbian” or “First Gay” or “First Person of Color” Something-or-Other, but we are still in an era when these firsts are important to recognize. Progress requires attention and encouragement, especially for underrepresented groups of people. United States Senator Tammy Baldwin from Wisconsin is not only Wisconsin’s first woman in the United States Senate, but is also the United States Senate’s first openly gay Senator. I had a chance to speak with her earlier this month about being the keynote speaker at the Midwest Family Equality Conference this weekend.

**Andy Lien:** It looks like Minnesota gets to welcome you to your neighbor state, thanks to the Family Equality Council. What great timing, considering what’s happening in at the Minnesota Capitol this session.

**Senator Baldwin:** Yes. We’ll be looking at the arc of progress on GLBT equality, particularly focusing on family issues. It will be a celebration of the incredible work of the Midwest Family Equality Conference over the years.

**AL:** As far as the arc is concerned, this may be the fastest moving movement in Civil Rights history and, right now, it’s focused on marriage. Back in 1994 when you were in the Wisconsin Assembly, you proposed legalizing same-sex marriages. That’s almost 20 years ago. What are your reflections on this progress?

**Senator Baldwin:** I can remember convening a group of folks who were family law experts and GLBT activists and talking about how can we protect our families and what sort of state law would work. We looked at the benefits and rights that are associated with marriage. We talked about, “Should we do statewide domestic partnerships or civil unions?” when no other states were talking about it extensively. We had a lot of discussion at the local level about cities passing ordinances, private corporations and nonprofits passing policies to recognize families of their workforces, but it really wasn’t happening a lot at the state level. I tell you this because even the GLBT activists I talked to said “this’ll never happen.” People were incredulous even talking about the idea. A friend of mine who was a part of that discussion back in the early ‘90s came up to me and said, “I can’t believe all of the changes I’ve seen today, and I do believe I will see this in Wisconsin in my lifetime.” They were pinching themselves at how much progress has been made in so short of time.

**AL:** That sort of optimism will be transferred to the families you’ll be speaking to at the Midwest Family Equality Conference. Plenty of those kids will grow up not necessarily even knowing this was an issue.

**Senator Baldwin:** Of course. And many of those young people, those children, won’t have the context of how impossible this seemed only a couple of decades ago.

**AL:** Even here in Minnesota, we recently saw the proposal of civil unions by a group that was comprised mostly of members of the GOP. That’s something that took most of us aback; we would never have entertained that notion even a couple of years ago. Of the U.S. Senators, we’re [at time of press] look-

ing at all but three DFL Senators supporting marriage equality. Great strides are happening.

**Senator Baldwin:** We just returned from our spring recess and we’re back in session. I had a chance to see some of my colleagues who, over the last two weeks, announced their support for marriage equality. We had little discussions and some of them were saying that this was “one of my proudest days in public service, to be able to make that announcement.” People showed great courage because it’s not necessarily politically popular but, boy, what a last few weeks it’s been.

**AL:** Last fall, the Democratic National Party wrote into its platform that marriage equality was something to strive for as Democrats. Do you see that as affecting your colleagues? How does that affect politics?

**Senator Baldwin:** Certainly party platforms and laws are very different things, but I do think that was an important step in the vision for the Democratic Party and also as a stark contrast between what you will see in the Republican platform which has few—if any—references to GLBT equality. Obviously, the platforms are the vision statements for the two parties and it exposes how very different they are. I gave a speech this past weekend about the progress on all different levels: you have party platforms, you have laws, you have court rulings, but we also have the constant need to change hearts and minds. We don’t want to just live in a country where our equal rights are enshrined in the law—but we’re certainly fighting very hard for that to happen—we want to live in a country where we are fully embraced as equal U.S. citizens, as Americans.

**AL:** Coming from Wisconsin, obviously Minnesota is similar in demographic make-up; do you have any advice for other legislators who are facing the question of marriage equality? How might they be able to frame it in their mind? What advice would you give constituents in Minnesota as they talk to their legislators about marriage equality?

**Senator Baldwin:** When you look at whether it’s the President’s evolution on this issue or the many U.S. Senators and other office holders who, in the last few weeks, have announced their full support for marriage equality, the common thread has been how loved ones, family members, neighbors, and coworkers have influenced their decisions. For the office holders, my advice would be to stick to that narrative: how have the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people who you’ve known impacted your view of their worth, their wholeness as citizens?

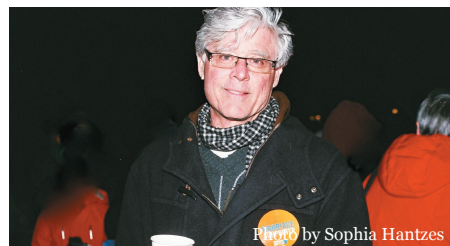
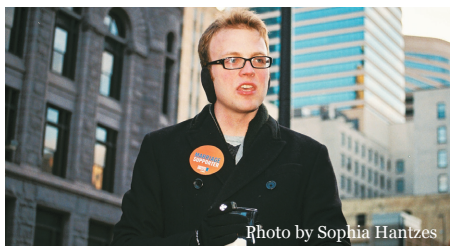
Then, when interfacing with elected officials, the GLBT movement since its earliest days has been about visibility and telling our stories. How do you change hearts and minds? By being heard and being seen. Then, people, including elected officials, come to the conclusion that our families are just like theirs and *we are just like them*. ▢

Join Senator Baldwin and many of our local politicians, friends, families, and professionals who are part of (or are working with) GLBT families in the Midwest at the Midwest Family Equality Conference taking place this weekend, April 19 & 20, in Minneapolis. For more information, go to [www.familyequality.org/get\\_involved/events/midwest\\_family\\_equality\\_conference](http://www.familyequality.org/get_involved/events/midwest_family_equality_conference).



## MARRIAGE EQUALITY VIGIL

MARCH 25, 2013





# The History of Gay Marriage

1. On May 18, 1970 Jack Baker and James McConnell, two gay men, apply for the first marriage license in the United States, in Minneapolis, MN. Gerald Nelson, Clerk of Hennepin County District Court denies the request to marry. In 1971 Jack Baker becomes the first openly gay man elected as President of the University of Minnesota student body. The couple sues and the case is dismissed in District Court, followed by an appeal to the Minnesota State Supreme Court (dismissed), followed by an appeal to the US Supreme Court (dismissed “for want of a substantial federal question”).

2. In 1993 the Hawaii Supreme Court declared the states probation against gay marriage to be unconstitutional, in ‘Baehr v. Lewin’. On November 3, 1996 Hawaii voters enact an amendment to the state constitution defining marriage as between opposite sex couples.

3. In September 13 1996, Lavender Magazine President Stephen Rocheford debates Mitch Pearlstein, President of the Center of the American Experiment, on Public Television arguing against the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) and supporting gay marriage as historically inevitable.

4. September 21, 1996, President Bill Clinton signs the Federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), which defines marriage between opposite sex couples, rushed through the Senate and House of Representatives only two months before the 1996 election. All Minnesota Representatives (with one exception) and both Senators, including Paul Wellstone, vote for DOMA. Representative Martin Sabo, 5<sup>th</sup> District, is the sole “no” vote cast of Minnesota’s Congressional delegation.

5. In 1997, the Minnesota legislature passes a state version of the Federal Defense of Marriage act.

6. On February 19, 2009 a civil unions bill is introduced in the Minnesota House of Representatives. On March 5, 2009

a gay marriage bill is introduced in the Minnesota Senate. Both fail.

7. On May 11, 2011 the Minnesota Senate passes a bill (already passed in the House of Representatives) to place a proposed amendment to the state constitution on the ballot that would ban same sex marriage but not civil unions.

8. On May 16, 2011 Senator John Marty introduces “The Marriage and Family Protection Act” which is for total marriage equality in Minnesota. The Republican control of the legislature at the time ensures that the bill fails.

9. On November 6, 2012, Minnesota voters reject the proposed constitutional amendment defining marriage as between opposite sex couples 52.6% to 47.4%.

10. On November 6, 2012 ten of the DFL State Senators (out of a total of 39 DFL Senators), and seventeen of the DFL State Representatives (out of a total of 73) elected, are in districts where the majority of the people voted “yes” on the constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage.

11. Within 48 hours of the election victory over the proposed constitutional amendment, Governor Mark Dayton, with the incoming Speaker of the House, Senate Majority Leader, and House Majority Leaders elect, all members of the Democratic Farmer Labor Party (DFL), announce that gay marriage is not on their agenda for this legislative session in 2013-14.

12. On November 29, 2012 Lavender Magazine begins a series of articles (thirteen to date) including interviews with Governor Dayton (who refuses to answer our questions) and the legislative leaders about their press conference immediately after the election. The Governor’s, Speaker’s, and the two Majority Leader’s names, phone numbers and email addresses are printed after each article. See the entire series of articles with contact in-

formation listed on page 55 and on the Lavender website at: [www.lavender-magazine.com/author/brettstevens/](http://www.lavender-magazine.com/author/brettstevens/).

13. On December 11, 2012 in an interview with Lavender Magazine, State Senator John Marty indicates that he will introduce another full marriage equality bill (as he did on May 16, 2011), including the legislative findings that were in his last bill. He believes that the bill can pass quickly, but doubts that the DFL leadership will allow a vote on it. Senator Marty says, “There is no excuse for not getting this done”.

14. On February 28, 2013 by State Senator Scott Dibble and State Representative Karen Clark, introduce a bill for marriage equality in the State Legislature. It is virtually the same bill introduced by Senator John Marty on May 16, 2011.

15. On March 12, 2013 committee hearings are held in both the State House and Senate and are quickly passed to go to their respective Houses of the legislature.

16. Speaker of the State House Thissen and State Senate Majority Leader Bakk both continue to indicate that there are not enough votes in the DFL caucus to pass the bill for marriage equality. The DFL controls both the House 73 (to 61 Republicans), and the Senate 39 (to 28 Republicans). Governor Dayton (DFL) indicates he will sign the bill “if” it reaches his desk for signature.

17. On April 3, 2013 a bipartisan bill for full equality (like in Colorado) civil unions is introduced in the Minnesota legislature.

NOW: If the DFL majority in both houses of the legislature chooses not to pass a marriage equality bill this year, they have the opportunity to pass instead the bipartisan compromise civil union bill, joining moderate Democrats and Republicans, this session in 2013. The choices are: equality, civil unions, or nothing. □





## The Elephant In The Room

ON APRIL 3, 2013, a group of five state legislators proposed a compromise bill for same sex couples. Four Republicans and a DFLer introduced a civil union bill for consideration by the Minnesota state legislature. This compromise was roundly criticized by advocates of the same sex marriage bill pending in that body. But, is proposing civil union legislation really such a bad thing? In a few short months, we have seen enormous movement by the political forces in this state. We've changed from whether we should even discuss giving same sex couple recognition of their relationships to either same sex marriage or civil unions. Isn't this progress?

From Tim Pugmire at MPR quotes Rep. Tim Kelly of Red Wing:

"I thought civil unions would have been proposed by this time, and I'm afraid because it has not, now we've put all [our] eggs into one basket proposing a gay marriage bill," he said. "If that fails, there's no fallback plan."

The bill has three Republican co-authors, among them state reps. Pat Garofalo of Farmington, Andrea Kieffer of Woodbury and Denny McNamara of Hastings.

Kelly described the proposal as bipartisan, because state Rep. Kim Norton, DFL-Rochester, also signed on as a co-author. Norton did not attend a news conference today. "Some lawmakers push civil unions as alternative to same-sex marriage." April 3, 2013, MPR.

The same sex marriage bill, proposed by Sen. Scott Dibble, a Minneapolis DFLer, passed both the state house and senate committees. But, since then the issue has pretty much fizzled. Little attention has been paid to the bill other than some sound bites at the time. Legislation like this doesn't pass without overwhelming support by the public. The issue had appeared to be waning as the DFL held both hearings on the same day. Instead of capturing headlines and urging discussion, the impact of these well attended hearings went away in a day.

Hopeful sentiment hasn't made the issue a burning case for consideration. The strategy of "all or nothing" was becoming frighteningly close to a result of "nothing," as Rep. Kelly said.

Supporters of the same sex marriage bill lambasted Kelly's civil union proposal. Doug Belden quotes Dibble as saying this:

"What's the problem with marriage?" asked Sen. Scott Dibble, DFL-Minneapolis, chief sponsor of the gay-marriage bill. "People fall in love; they want to make a lifetime commitment together; they want to celebrate that commitment in front of friends and families. So why civil unions? Why something different and substandard and inferior?"

"It reminds me of times in the Deep South: You can't drink from that water fountain. You can't walk through that door." 'Minnesota GOP offers gay marriage alternative – civil unions,' Pioneer Press, April 3, 2013.

Dibble's characterization of civil unions as the same as segregation is a false moral equivalency. Liking government separation by race and calling something by a different name are not the same. It is disingenuous at best. It is insulting to say the very real and very physical treatment of people of color to make them drink from different water fountains and eat at different lunch counters is the same as calling same sex relationships "civil unions." In fact, it appears from reading the bill, civil unions will be treated exactly like traditional marriages in law. Kelly describes it like this:

"What this bill does is simply anywhere there's 'marriage' in statute we insert 'and civil union,' so to suggest that it does not give them the same rights and benefits to marriage is completely false."

Some have argued the bill is suspect because it was proposed by a Republican. That seems unfair considering the following explanation of Rep. Kelly's bona fides by Belden.

"Kelly has been an outlier in his party on the gay marriage issue.

He was one of four House Republicans who voted in 2011 against putting an amendment on the 2012 ballot that would have defined marriage as the union of a man and woman.

He sat on the board of Minnesotans United during the successful fight to defeat that amendment, and he said the group was surprised when he declined to sign on to the gay-marriage bill."

Kelly has supported the GLBT community in the past. However, he doesn't fit into a neat pigeonhole. He has come out to support recognition for same sex relationships but without changing the definition of "marriage." While some may scoff at that distinction, it is a real issue for many Minnesotans as demonstrated in that recent Minnesota Poll. Most Minnesotans want state recognition of our relationships but are not eager to call it "marriage." That is important because it shows Minnesotans simply want a compromise.

Is that so terrible?

According to Belden's article, Minnesota had 12,224 same sex couples in 2011. If compromise is what it takes to give us equal standing, we must consider civil unions as one of the means to that end. Some same sex marriage advocates have said to me civil unions 'let's them win.' I'd like us all to win. If giving a little gets us equal recognition of our relationships, then so be it. We should rejoice the discussion is no longer IF same sex relationships should be recognized. The discussion is now HOW we should do so.

Considering the stance after last November, this is a seismic shift in opinion. We should take advantage of the change in attitude. The real "elephant in the room" is we don't seem to have the votes for same sex marriage but we could for civil unions. If we don't accept some compromise, we could lose our favorable moral position. Then, it could be years before we see a change in the law. Is it worth that?



#### CONTACT YOUR POLITICIANS

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#### SEE ALSO:

**"The DFL's Big Gay Farce"** from Issue 457, November 29, 2012

**"Three of Four Top Elected Minnesota Politicians Comment on the Marriage Debate"** from

Issue 458, December 13, 2012

**"'Earnest Money:' Repeal DOMA Now"** from Issue 458, December 13, 2012

**"Why We Can't Wait" an Interview with Sen. John Marty** from Issue 460, January 10, 2013

**"Waiting for Superman"** from Issue 460, January 10, 2013

**"Don't Skip Dessert" an Interview with Rep. Ryan Winkler** from Issue 461, January 24, 2013

**"What's In A Name?" A Case for Civil Unions** from Issue 461, January 24, 2013

**"Outreach: Conversation with Rep. Andrea Kieffer (R)"** from Issue 462, February 7, 2013

**"Carrie Chapman Catt's Winning Plan"** from Issue 462, February 7, 2013

**"Our Family Albums"** from Issue 463, February 21, 2013

**"Talking Strategy with Richard Carlbom [of Minnesotans United for All Families]"** from Issue 463, February 21, 2013

**"Vanguard"** from Issue 464, March 7, 2013

**"Beating the Clock"** from Issue 466, April 4, 2013

**"Rocky Mountain High"** from Issue 467, April 18, 2013

**"The Elephant in the Room"** from Issue 467, April 18, 2013

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## Rocky Mountain High

ON MAY 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013, same sex couples in Colorado will be able to obtain a civil union by going to their county clerk or recorder.

On May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013, same sex couples in Minnesota will be able to renew their driver's license or get a fishing permit, but they will not be able to ask the state to recognize their relationship.

From Lynn Bartels at the Denver Post on March 22, 2013:

"The atmosphere at the bill-signing was electric, with huge cheers when lawmakers and the governor took to the small stage. Senate Bill 11 gives same-sex couples many but not all of the rights and responsibilities of marriage. It goes into effect May 1."

Many people have argued getting civil unions aren't an acceptable alternative. They would rather have same sex marriage or nothing at all. In Colorado, same sex marriage wasn't an option yet. Colorado amended its state constitution to limit marriage to a man and a woman in 2006. But, instead of accepting nothing, the people of Colorado created a new category for same sex couples. This fight started three years ago, but this year they got recognition starting with their state senate.

Bartels reports on February 11, 2013, again from the Denver Post:

"Lawmakers often are silent during the official vote, simply voting 'yes' or 'no,' but often on high-profile bills there is another round of debate before the vote.

But there was no further debate Monday, perhaps because it was the third time in three years the Senate has debated the measure."

The bill passed the senate after three years of intense discussion. There were numerous committee hearings and public

testimony. It finally came down to passage of something that provided a mechanism for same sex couples to register their relationships. Then came the house vote.

The Colorado house passed it overwhelmingly 39 to 26. In spite of this achievement, the senate sponsor of the bill had this to say:

"Sen. Pat Steadman, D-Denver, who has sponsored the civil-unions bill for three years, said its passage is the high point of a decades-long struggle.

"Yet we're not there yet. I don't want anyone to think that we somehow reached the peak," Steadman said. "Civil unions are not marriage. They are something that are separate and distinct and lesser and unequal, and that really is not good enough." Denver Post, March 13, 2013, Lynn Bartels, 'Colorado House passes civil unions, but fans note marriage is equality'

The civil union legislation in Colorado certainly wasn't perfect. It could have been better. Certainly the civil union bill introduced in Minnesota by Rep. Tim Kelly is a clean, straight forward bill that provides equal benefits and obligations. But in Colorado, it was better than nothing as explained by some legislators.

"The eight gay lawmakers were asked whether they planned to enter a civil union. Five raised their hands. Steadman, whose partner, Dave Misner, died in September after a brief battle with pancreatic cancer, wasn't one of them.

"Some of us," Steadman said quietly, "don't get that opportunity."

Now, Minnesota isn't Colorado. Colorado did pass their Marriage Amendment and Colorado is the state that banned GLBT anti-discrimination laws through Amend-

ment 2 in 1992. That was struck down by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Romer v. Evans*. This would suggest Colorado, at least in the past, was less likely to recognize same sex relationship and gay rights. Now Colorado has given the GLBT community a legal device for the state to accept the life partnership decisions of couples.

On March 21, 2013, Bartels of the Denver Post reports finalization of the civil union law.

"Amid cheers and tears, Gov. John Hickenlooper on Thursday signed a civil-unions bill into law, erasing a generation of anguish for supporters of gay rights in what once was dubbed 'the hate state.'"

"Unbelievable," Hickenlooper said, looking at the gays and straight allies who were crammed into the History Colorado Center to watch history being made."

With the stroke of a pen, Colorado leaped ahead of Minnesota in recognition of its GLBT citizens. Meanwhile, back in St. Paul, we are hearing the votes are simply not there in the state house. Instead of moving the issue forward, some activists have insisted it needs to be same sex marriage or nothing. But, I fear it may be even worse than that.

As the legislative session draws to a close, let's consider which strategy was overall more effective. Colorado embraced the recognition of same sex couples and with it the GLBT community. In Minnesota harsh lines were drawn. Strident rhetoric has enflamed both sides. The divide in this state is even wider. Do we gain recognition of our relationships only to marginalize ourselves? Are the strategies employed giving us a wider acceptance in society or are we now seen as an adversary? These are bigger questions to consider. Let's not forget them. □





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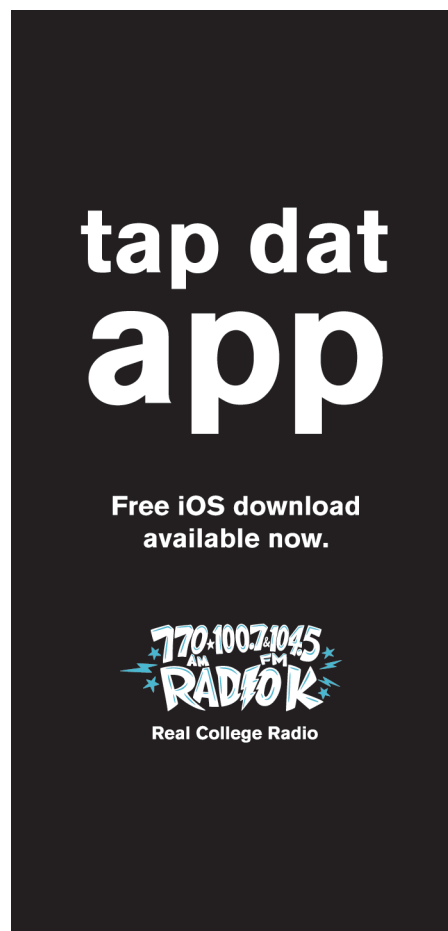


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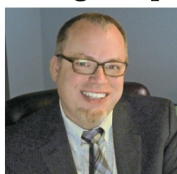
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OUR VOICES

DATELAND | Jennifer Parello

## Ich bin nicht deutsch

I WAS walking down the street yesterday when I was approached by a tall woman with striking features and the stern countenance of a Cold War-era bureaucrat. When she started speaking to me in German, I immediately suspected that she might be carrying microfilm in the pocket of her crisp trench coat.

(Before I begin my story, let me say that the main reason I hate the World Wide Internets is that it killed the microfilm business. What fun is it to be a spy anymore if you can't risk your life sneaking past border patrol with a piece of microfilm containing an evil country's secret plans to destroy the world? Now, all a spy has to do is Facebook friend North Korea's Supreme Leader Kim Jong-un to learn about his plot to blow up the moon and replace it with Dennis Rodman's head.)

"I'm sorry, but I don't speak German," I said after she barked what sounded like important instructions at me for several minutes.

She looked truly stunned, and then said in English, "But German you are, yes?"

"Nope," I said.

"But German you must be," she demanded.

"But I'm not," I said. We argued this point for a few more minutes until she finally walked away in a huff, never conceding that I am not German.

Weirdly, this is not the first time I've been accused of being German. It happens quite often. This has always stumped me since I look like a Sicilian peasant and I always put verbs where they belong and not at the end of a sentence as Germans do.

"It's because you're attracted to cold, heartless blondes," said my best friend, who has never forgiven me for dragging her through two decades of countless failed relationships with chilly, humorless women who don't laugh at her inane jokes.

"How does that make people think I'm German?" I asked.

She took this as an invitation to insult my taste in women and my general lack of sense and smarts. But none of the abuse she was spewing answered my question.

Now, I don't want you to get your hopes up and think that I'm going to end this column with some big revelation about how I finally figured out why I'm constantly mistaken for German. That's not going to happen because I still have no clue. And I'm not really interested in figuring it out.

And you know why? Because I'm middle-aged and I don't give a damn!

Ah-ha! I bet you didn't see that coming! This column really isn't about mistaken identity. It's about the fact that there are actual benefits to aging.

I was in my 20s the first time I was mistaken for German. And when it happened, I obsessed about it for weeks. Worst of all, I thought it made me interesting and I would discuss it at dinner parties. No one cared, because these parties were with other 20-somethings who were so equally obsessed with themselves that they paid no attention to my nonsense.

What I've found so incredibly lovely about my mid-40s is that I no longer care what people think of me—good, bad or German. It's so freeing. If my boss gives me guff at work, I don't agonize over whether it will affect my career. I simply merrily question the size of his penis and continue doing exactly as I please.

Also, I'm finally in a great relationship, because I no longer fret over whether she will discover my true self and be repulsed by it. If she's repulsed, that's her problem.

And if anyone has got a beef with this column, all I have to say is "Ich möchte ein kaltes Bier, bitte!" (Translation: "I'd like a cold beer, please," which is the only German phrase I know.) □



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## Lesbian Hostility and Forced Bisexuality

### Dear Ms. Behavior:

I am very curious and disturbed by the overt hostility exhibited by lesbian women! I am a gay male, active in the community, and have had multiple opportunities to interact with all manner of people. As a gay man, I pose no threat to gay or bi women. I have also been told by straight male friends that lesbian hostility is the rule, not the exception. These straight male friends are liberal non-judgmental, cool guys (otherwise they wouldn't befriend me, a gay guy). To hate and be hostile to half of the population of our planet makes no sense. I have been on the receiving end of this anger, hostility, and very overt prejudice.

On the other hand, the intimately close relationship between gay men and straight women is legendary. What the hell is the problem here?

-MYSTIFIED

### Dear Mystified:

Some lesbians who appear to be frowning are actually smiling. Other lesbians may have GERD from eating a big lunch, so they can't give you the big warm greeting you deserve. Some wear heavy shoes that make them feel chronically annoyed. Others have hairballs from living with cats or going down on their girlfriends. Straight women don't have to deal with these problems, so they're pleasant all the time. They love their gay male friends, who have way more interest in their lives than their husbands or boyfriends do. It doesn't mean that straight women are better; it just means that their lives are less

fraught with irritation.

Men who read hostility into the behavior of all lesbians may have a little misogyny problem. Perhaps you should Google the words "feminism" and "oppression" and see what you can learn.

### Dear Ms. Behavior,

My ex boyfriend of a year dumped me last March. Most of my family didn't know about him, which was okay until I needed a shoulder to cry on. Then my grandmother died. At the same time, all the responsibilities I had taken on at work came to a head. Nobody offered me any real support.

A few years ago, I decided to explore my interest in guys more. It's been an interesting and fun five years. But recent losses in my personal life, coupled with the depressing squabbles for equality on the state and national levels make me yearn for a heterosexual relationship; a "normal" relationship that I don't have to worry about. I'm not afraid of dating guys; I just prefer to be low-key.

My problem is, I have yet to meet a girl who I'm interested in dating. They prefer to count me as their gay friend, though I remind them I'm not gay. More to the point, I don't want to go out and have sex. It just seems to me that all the girls my age either have a boyfriend or only want sex. I'm out of practice dating girls (not that I had lots of practice to begin with) and it seems I only know how to attract guys. Yet, I KNOW I like girls, even though I'm a heterosexual virgin. I keep thinking that if I could get a girlfriend, I could verify to everyone, including myself, that I'm

bi. Can you help me?

-BITTEN AND NOT SMITTEN

### Dear Bitten and Not Smitten:

It sounds like you'd *like* to be bisexual. Perhaps you'd also like to be the Prime Minister of Italy or a back-up dancer in Madonna's next feature film, but it doesn't mean you will be.

It sounds like you don't really want to have sex with women and they don't believe you when you say you're not gay. Bisexual men actually like sex with both men and women. You don't, or you wouldn't still be a heterosexual virgin. (Straight or bisexual men don't actually mind women who "just want sex.") Do you really want to force yourself to be with a woman just to prove that you're bisexual? If you haven't had heterosexual sex yet, you're probably permanently not in the mood.

It's sad to hear about the lack of support you received last year after your relationship ended, but your family might have been there for you if you hadn't kept the relationship a secret. How could your family have known to be there for you when you didn't tell them that you were heartbroken? It's not clear why you think dating women would make you more "normal." If anything, you need a big dose of self-acceptance, not some internal pressure to become a different person who you think would earn your family's approval. □

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## The Five Stages of Gossip

The Court of Public Opinion, that oft-cited, remarkably powerful thing to which elected officials owe their careers, is what exactly? Most call it a visible, impassioned trial through the majority's widely held political and societal beliefs. Some think the Court to be the highest in the land, controlled by the media, that initiates "trials" not on their merit, but on their juiciness. Others think that it's only majority opinions that yes, sometimes but rarely, go to "trial" at all.

On the local level? Stage 5 gossip.

The Rumor Mill churns not with wind or water, but with gossip. And because personal gossip on the local level hardly warrants any real attention, it's largely a grassroots effort, one without a gossip column or magazine distribution, but every river starts with a trickle.

It's a virus of ours, something to keep things fun and a means through which we avoid awkward silences. Having a lull in a lunch conversation with a friend? Gossip about a mutual acquaintance. Out with friends and see a passerby you somehow know? Down the Red Bull-vodka and let it loose, or...

"Oh my gosh," you say to a once-in-a-while, what's-his-name-again acquaintance, "How are you? You look fabulous!" He echoes your excitement, and when he's gone you regroup with your friends, "He slept with so-and-so, you know. And I had heard

he gained some weight, but DAMN. Oh, yes, he is such an asshole."

We've all done it, even those of us who act as leaders in our communities, in our charities and cause championship. Example from a fundraiser: "I didn't think she'd be here tonight. Did she donate anything or is she here for the free booze?"

And it makes its rounds, much like a game of telephone. At one end of the line a message is received by a single individual who passes it to two, who pass it to four, eight, sixteen, on and on. By the time the original message is in the hands of so many that it's hard to know from where it came, it likely now holds only a nugget of truth inside a bedrock of falsity. But unlike the game, this version of telephone loses its truth not merely because of misunderstanding, but purposeful elaboration.

Again, you've done this. If a rumor is too well known among your friends, it must be elaborated to keep it going.

So we arrive at the 5 Stages of Gossip.

(Aside: It's not always this way, please understand. Gossip is not always a vicious cycle. Indeed, closer proximity to friends might be the result of commiserating over someone who has done you wrong. But we're addressing the Court now, so back to the Mill.)

The 5 Stages of Gossip: creation, initial delivery, friend share, acquaintance

share, mass share. A landmark to identify in what stage a rumor resides is hearing gossip you've already heard. If you hear gossip come back to you from someone you've never told, you've got a Stage 5 monster.

But the most interesting stages of gossip are the first two: creation and initial delivery. We initiate gossip often with an incomplete picture. Say, for example, someone reiterates time and again that he lives in a nice neighborhood in which you've never seen him and have heard that no one has seen, or has been invited to, his house. Maybe he's a liar. Maybe. So you run the theory by a friend. You want to make sure you aren't thinking about this the wrong way. Your friend either agrees with your assessment or admits he doesn't know. Either way, the first trickle of gossip has appeared and there's a Rumor Mill down the riverbed ready to churn.

The decision about whether to pass along gossip comes from preconceived notions. If you've heard rumors from a credible source, it must be the truth, and since to someone you are a credible source, they must know, too. And for someone else, they are a credible source that must be trusted. And so on.

It's the game of telephone. The question remains, is it worth the answer? ■





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